

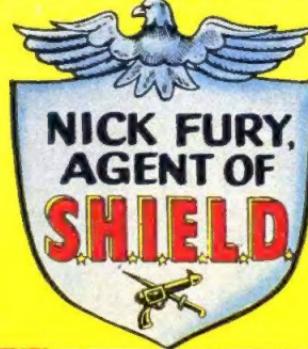


MARVEL
COMICS GROUP

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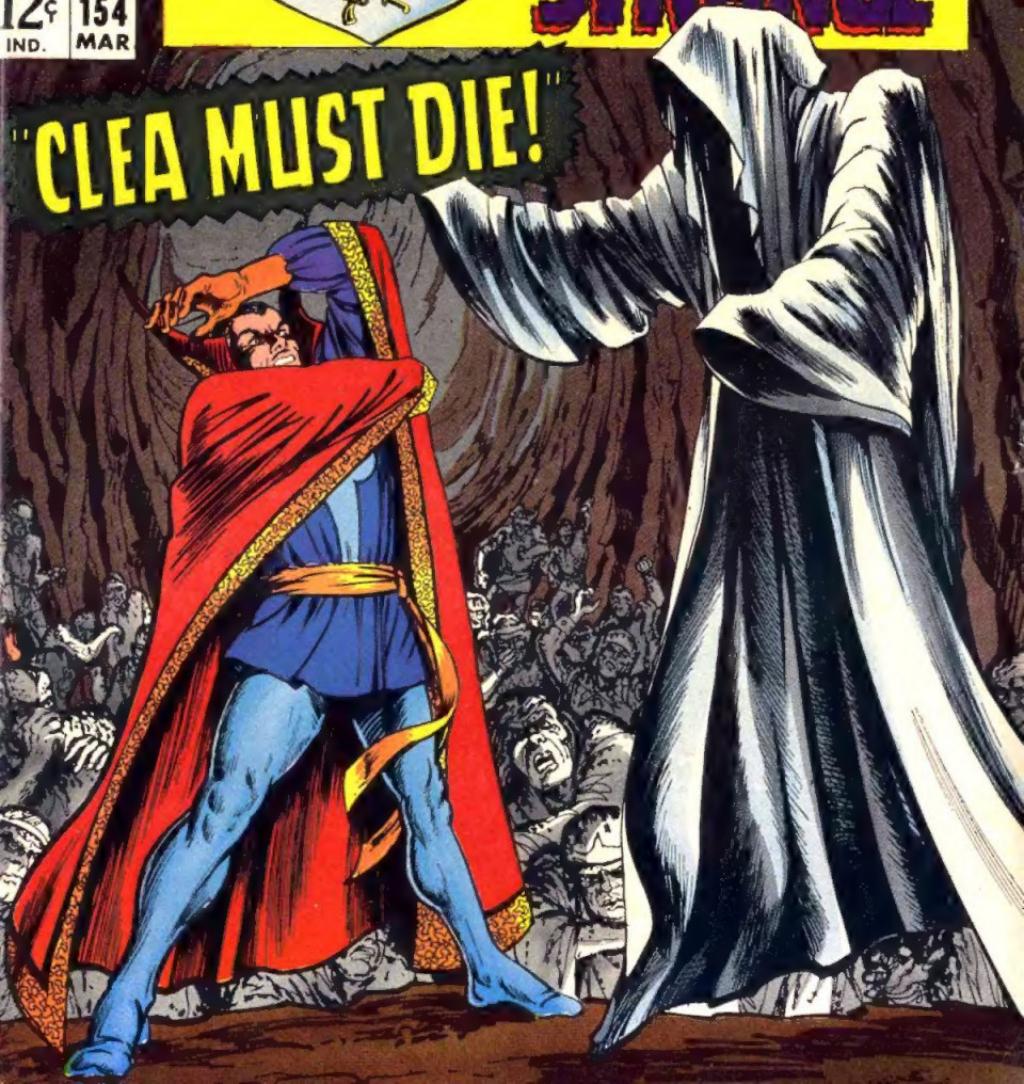
STRANGE TALES

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY



DOCTOR STRANGE

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Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. This exciting instrument fits in your mouth and out of sight. Fool teacher, friends and family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist." No. 137 — 25c

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50c

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Place it on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It also makes embarrassing noises. Made of rubber and inflatable. A scream at parties and gatherings. No. 247

50c

50

NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

"BEWARE...THE DEADLY DREADNOUGHT!"

OUR STUTTLOGUENT SAGA SO FAR:

THE MYSTERIOUS SUPREME HYDRA HAS ASSUMED THE IDENTITY OF A SHIELD AGENT NAMED BRONSON...AND MADE HIMSELF A HERO IN THE EYES OF NICK FURY HIMSELF! AND IF THAT DOESN'T CLUE YOU IN THAT SHIELD IS IN FOR TROUBLE, WE'RE GOIN' BACK TO PUBLISHING FUNNY-ANIMAL BOOKS!

YA MEAN THIS NUTTY GIZMO'S GONNA TELL YA WHO SUPREME HYDRA REALLY IS... AS SOON AS THE SCIENCE BOYS FINISH FEEDIN' IT ALL THE INFO WE GOT ON 'IM?

HOW CAN IT... WHEN ALL THE PHOTOS WE GOT ARE SHOTS OF HIM DISGUISED AS DON CABALLERO?

LEAVE THE THINKIN' TO AUTOFAC, YA OL' GOAT... THAT'S WHAT IT'S HERE FOR!

BUT, AREN'T YOU IN DANGER OF ATTACK BY HYDRA... AS LONG AS I'M ON BOARD?

LADY, HYDRA'S GOT A LOT MORE AGAINST SHIELD THAN JUST THE FACT THAT WE'RE PROTECTIN' THE DAUGHTER OF ITS FIRST LEADER!

ALL THE SAME, COLONEL, I SUGGEST WE RE-LOCATE MISS BROWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

AS YOU KNOW, THERE'S ALREADY BEEN ONE ATTEMPT ON HER LIFE!

A MAJESTIC MARVEL MASTERWORK!

EDITED BY:
STAN LEE
SCRIPTED BY:
ROY THOMAS
PLOTTED AND DRAWN BY:
JIM STERANKO
LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN

DON'T YIELD!
BACK WHAT'S-ITS-NAME!

DON'T WORRY, SITWELL! I AIN'T LIKELY TO FERGIT THAT LITTLE FACT!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, COLONEL! BUT, WON'T MY TRANSFER JUST INVITE ANOTHER HYDRA ASSAULT?

THAT'S NOT LIKELY, MISS BROWN! COLONEL FURY HAS ORDERED ME TO USE THE SAUCER-SHIP THIS TIME!

BRONSON, TOMORROW YOU'RE TAKIN' LAURA... MISS BROWN... TO OUR WESTERN HQ, WHERE SHELL BE SAFE PERA WHILE!

THEN, WE'LL BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON A MASTER PLAN TO RID THE EARTH OF HYDRA... FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL!

"BRONSON'S RIGHT, KID! WE BEAT THAT BUNCH'A HOODED HAS-BEENS ONCE... AN' WE CAN DO IT AGAIN... NO MATTER WHO THEIR NEW BIG CHEESE IS!"

I KNOW YOU CAN, COLONEL... YOU MUST! FOR THE FATE OF THE WORLD HANGS IN THE BALANCE.

AS FOR MYSELF, I'LL BE READY WHEN YOU WISH... SO THAT I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOUR WESTERN DIVISION!

AND I'LL SEE TO IT YOU GET THERE!

YOU DO THAT, MISTER!

YOU OTHER THREE GOLDBRICKS GIT BACK TO THE INFIRMARY... AND THAT'S AN ORDER!

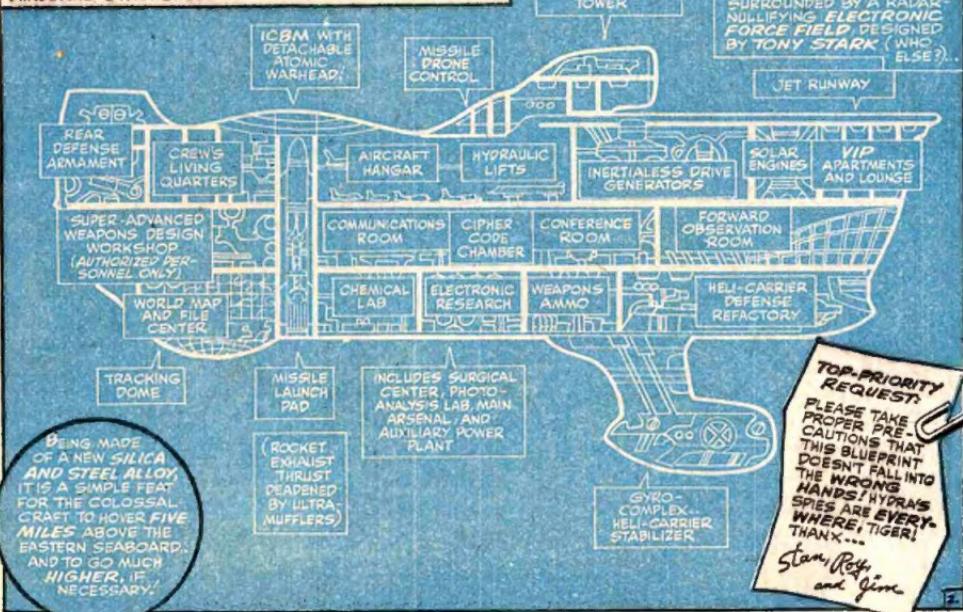
I'LL CALCULATE MISS BROWN'S WESTERN ROUTE PERSONALLY, SIR!

BUT... AW-RIGHT, NICK! YER THE BOSS!

I'LL SHARPEN IN YOUR PENCILS, JASF!

AND NOW, FOR THOSE FRANTIC ONES WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO TAKE A HELI-CARRIER EXCURSION, JAUNTY JIM STEANKO HAS THOUGHTFULLY DRAWN A CROSS-SECTION CUTAWAY OF SHIELD'S AWESOME AIRBORNE STRONGHOLD...

DESPITE ITS SIZE, THE HELI-CARRIER IS ACTUALLY A COMPACT VERSION OF SHIELD'S MASSIVE GROUND INSTALLATION... AND IS SURROUNDED BY A RADAR-NULLIFYING ELECTRONIC FORCE FIELD DESIGNED BY TONY STARK (WHO ELSE?)...



BUT NOW, IT'S PLOT TIME AGAIN... AND, AS AUTOFAC GOES THROUGH THE FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION, NICK FURY PAYS AN OVERDUE VISIT TO SHIELD'S PERSONAL EFFECTS DEPARTMENT...

HOW'S TRICKS, BOOTHROYD? DUM DUM TELLS ME YOU GOT SOME NEW CIVVIES YOU WANNA TRY OUT ON ME?

I CAN USE 'EM! MY LAST RUN-IN WITH SUPREME HYDRA, I BLAMED NEAR CAME HOME IN A BARREL!

AH, YES... I HEARD ABOUT THAT SMASHING ENCOUNTER! *

A PITY, ACTUALLY! NOW, HYDRA WILL BE ABLE TO DUPLICATE SOME OF OUR MOST INGENIOUS DEVICES!

AH!

SPLIT MILK AND ALL THAT! IF YOU WILL, COLONEL!

THEN, AS THE SHIELD RAM-ROD DONS A WAITING SUIT...

EXQUISITE FIT, IF I MAY SAY SO, SIR! AND, THE MATERIAL IS MORE PERFECTLY BULLETPROOF AND FLAMEPROOF THAN EVER!

THE SHIRT'S BUTTONS, BY THE WAY, CONTAIN A NEW SYNTHETIC COMPOUND... AND, WHEN SWALLOWED, WILL SUPPLY FIVE MINUTES OF OXYGEN!

AND NOW, COLONEL, THIS PEN...

SORRY, BOOTHROYD, I AINT IN THE MOOD TO SIGN AUTOGRAPHS!

AH, I SEE YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR IS STILL INTACT, SIR. THAT'S AN EAVESDROPPER PEN... IT MAGNIFIES SOUND WAVES A HUNDREDFOLD WHEN USED PROPERLY!

AS FOR THE CUFF LINK YOU'RE ADJUSTING, IT'S ONE OF A PAIR OF ELECTRONIC ABSORBERS! YEAH, DON'T SAY!

THE RIGHT CUFF LINK IS AN IONIC DE-GENERATOR! WHEN COUPLED WITH THE OTHER... A MINIATURE ATOMIC BATTERY... IT DISPELS LARGE AMOUNTS OF HIGH VOLTAGE!

AND, EACH OF THOSE CIGARS CONTAINS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES USEFUL IN ANY NUMBER OF DIRE EMERGENCIES!

OH WELL, I CAN ALWAYS TAKE UP SMOKIN' A PIPE!

THIS REPULSOR WATCH IS OUR PRIDE AND JOY! JUST PRESS THE STEM, AND IT EMITS A STREAM OF NEGATIVE MAGNETIC ENERGY--USEFUL FOR DODGING BULLETS AND THE LIKE!

JUST ONE THING, COLONEL! IF YOU NEED TO KNOW THE TIME--

YEAH, I KNOW! I'LL ASK MICKEY MOUSE!



THIS RING I THINK I CAN FIGURE OUT FER MYSELF! I GOT ME A HUNCH IT'S THE DEADLIEST GIZMO OF ALL!

QUITE SO, SIR, AS YOU GUessed!

IT DOES INDEED CONTAIN AN AUTO-DESTRUCT MECHANISM... JUST IN CASE!

YEAH... JUST IN CASE!

WITH MY LUCK, IT'LL PROBABLY ALSO TURN MY BLASTED FIN'ER GREEN!



THIS BELT LOOKS LIKE THE LAST OF VER LITTLE SURPRISES!

WHAT KIND'A CRAZY STUNT DOES IT DO?

A MOST BASIC ONE, SIR! IT HOLDS UP YOUR PANTS!

ONE FINAL WORD, COLONEL... WE'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD ER, TAKE SLIGHTLY BETTER CARE OF THIS SUIT THAN YOUR PREVIOUS ONE!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, BOOTHROYD!

NEXT TIME I SEE SUPREME HYDRA, MEBBE I CAN GIT 'EM TO PRESS THE OLD ONE AN' MAIL IT BACK TO YA!

BUT, THE POWER-MAD PUPIT OF WHOM NICK FURY SPEAKS IS MUCH, MUCH NEARER THAN THE DIRECTOR OF SHIELD SUSPECTS! FOR, AT THIS PRECISE INSTANT...ELSEWHERE IN THE IMMENSE HELI-CARRIER, A SINISTER CALL GOES OUT...AND, FROM A HIDDEN SUBTERRANEAN COMPLEX ON EARTH COMES THE OMINOUS ANSWER...



THEN, IN HYDRA HQ, EVEN AS THE HURTLING FORM STREAKS UPWARDS, A BLOOD-CHILLING RITUAL IS RE-ENACTED...



MEANWHILE, THE UNSUSPECTING DIRECTOR OF SHIELD MOMENTARILY HAS OTHER, LESS EARTH-SHAKING MATTERS ON HIS MIND...



HOWEVER, AS FURY BEGINS TO WALK TOWARDS THE CHAMBER WHERE AUTOFAC IS BEING READIED, HE CANNOT KNOW THAT HIS THOUGHTS ARE ABOUT TO BE CUT SHORT...



MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

MUTTY NOTES AND NONSENICAL NAME-DROPPING, FEATURING NATURALLY NON-ESSENTIAL NEWS OF THE NATION'S TOP NON-ENTITIES!

ITEM: Boy, are we frustrated! Our printer just called to say he has to have this Bullpen Bulletin page on the presses by tonight! And this is the week our Marvel Super-Heroes TV show goes on the air—which means we won't receive your letters of comment for another few days! Therefore, we can't print a summary of all your opulent opinions until our next B.B. page! Although we may manage to squeeze a mention or two in some of our Letters Pages—'cause they go to the printer a few days later. Anyway, by next iss we'll have everything all straightened out (at least, as straightened out as we can ever have things!)—so, till then, let's go on to our other items of earth-shaking unconcern—

ITEM: The big talk around the Bullpen these days concerns Marvelous MARIE SEVERIN, who's just taken over the illustrating chores on the Doc Strange strip. The mirthful Miss Severin has been keeping us in stitches for years with the hilarious cartoons she whips up whenever no one's looking—but it never occurred to us (or to her) that she could also draw a sensational serious strip—never, that is, until Our Leader asked her to take a whack at Doc Strange, because WILD BILL EVERETT wanted to devote himself full time to his beloved Sub-Mariner. Well, the rest is history. This gal is gonna be one of the greatest! (We're not sure about the greatest—what—but why be picky?) And to anticipate your question, the answer is "yes"—she's the sister of talented JOHN SEVERIN, who illustrated our Agent of Shield strip about a year ago. Anyway, we know you'll enjoy watching her achieve real Marvel stardom as the months go by—and, take it from us—it couldn't happen to a nice gal!

ITEM: We'll award a pocket-sized, portable, ten-transistor no-prize to any True Believer who can name a feature in any comic magazine which has had more artists handling it than the happy-go-lucky Hulk! We can name at least six stalwarts who've tackled the illustrating chores in just the past few years—and knowing how blechhh our memories are, we're sure that you can name a lot more! However, it's just barely possible that we've come up with the perfect choice for ol' Green Skin in the person of GIL (Sugar) KANE! We're not really sure what makes his version of everybody's favorite monster so appealing, unless it could be those gamma ray treatments we've been forcing him to undergo! Anyway, we're trying to chain him to the drawing board, and if we succeed, it seems as though ol' Torn Pants will have his own steady artist at last!

ITEM: Unless we figure out what to do about it real fast, it looks like the FANTASTIC FOUR are gonna have the biggest cast of characters in super-hero history! What with the six most famous Inhumans now being free—not counting their dog, Lockjaw—and the Silver Surfer still making the scene, as well as the Black Panther, Wyatt Wingfoot, the Wizard, Sandman, Alicia—and don't forget the original four members of the F.F.—or the ever-delightful

Doc Doom—all we can say is: Hoo boy! (And, imagine if we had to feature the Yancy Street Gang regularly, too!—There are dozens of 'em!) Now do you see why poor Stan and Jack even have trouble remembering their own names sometimes?

ITEM: Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Rapid Advancement? Didja notice that RASCALLY ROY THOMAS is now scripting four features each month? (And, it seems like only yesterday that SMILIN' STAN was telling him what all those little buttons on the typewriter were there for!) Hard-working Roy is busily putting words in the mouths of the X-MEN, SGT. FURY, the AVENGERS, and S.H.I.E.L.D.! But, here's the payoff—Roy was originally supposed to lighten the work load for poor Smiley; but now that the Rascally One is so busy, we hadda hire another budding Shakespeare to take the pressure off him! So, let's hear it for GARY FRIEDRICH, whom we snatched away from an editorial job on a Midwest newspaper to help bring culture and enlightenment (Marvel style) to all you Keepers of the Flame!—Pretty soon, we'll haveta start issuing score cards so you'll know who's who—and then maybe you'll be able to tell us!

ITEM: We just hadda mention it on the Bullpen page—lest any card-carrying MMMS-er overlook the newest Marvel title amidst the multitudinous melange of mundane mags currently flooding the nation's newsstands. Yep, for those of you who have already discovered it, we're blowing our own horn about...THE GHOST RIDER, latest addition to our hittin' Western lineup. So, those of you who figure for KID COLT OUTLAW...THE RAWHIDE KID...and THE TWO GUN KID...can now add another title to that lustrous list of saddle-sore sagas! (We do publish the three Western titles listed above, don't we? It would be kinda embarrassing if one of 'em belonged to Brand Echhi! Oh well.——!)

ITEM: Before we forget, we wanna wish you the best of everything for this holiday season. May you have good luck, good health, and a good sense of humor—if you do, everything else will take care of itself! So stay happy, and be good to each other. Who knows?—It could become contagious!—Nuff said!



Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Gary Goddard
Santa Barbara, Calif.
Rickey Frizzell
Hendersonville, Tenn.

Michael Hars
Baltimore, Md.
Dana R. Lisle
Columbus, Ohio
Jimmy Batten
Bronx, N. Y.
Jeffrey Kapalka
Utica, N. Y.

Marc Baraban
Kansas City, Mo.
Susan Brown
Sarasota, Fla.
Paul McLaughlin
Boston, Mass.
James B. Lewis
Philadelphia, Pa.

Bill Purviance
Clinton, Miss.
Gregory Price
Hillside, N. J.
Bob Kaltenbach
Dallas, Tex.
Joey Montoya
Paramount, Cal.

Mike Howell
Windber, Pa.
D. Catena
Dallas, Tex.
Kevin Johnson
Medina, Ohio
Norman Culcher
Virden, Ill.

Bonnie Magness
Guilford, Conn.
Jack Alderfer
Mason, Mich.
Ken Alderfer
Mason, Mich.
Michael Young
Honolulu, Hawaii

Nick Trusiewicz
Wolcott, Conn.
David M. Smith
Los Angeles, Calif.
Rocco Verdercelli
Brooklyn, N. Y.
Steve Honicker
Middletown, Ohio

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

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AVENGERS #37: The Avengers polish off the Ultroids—only to run smack dab into the even mightier menace of...Ikar the Incredible! And wait'll you see Wanda and Pietro in action once more!

X-MEN #29: The Mimic vs. the Super-Adaptoid! It's like the X-Men and the Avengers all rolled into one powerhouse package! Adventuredom will never be the same again!

DAREDEVIL #25: The most unexpected development of all—DD introduces his "twin brother" to Karen and Foggy! And—wait'll you see his battle with the Leap-Frog! It's a sensation!

THOR #137: Never has Asgard faced a greater danger than—the Trolls! And, never has Thor faced a more monstrous Troll than Ulik—while Sif is taken from him!

SUPENSE #87: Iron Man faces one of the most macabre villains of all time—the Mole Man—as ol' Shell-Head has his most glorious failure! Meanwhile, Captain America has the fight of his life—or is it, his death?

ASTONISH #89: Never has the Sub-Mariner scored a more daringly different victory! But, the Hulk is forced to battle the most powerful foe of all—the unearthly Stranger!

SGT. FURY #39: The Nazis have a new super-weapon which may turn the tide of battle, and it's up to Nick and his howlin' heroes to destroy it—while Dino Manelli's combat career hangs in the balance!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #7: The fabulous Fantastic Four! The invincible Iron Man! The dynamic Dr. Strange! The incredible Hulk! Never before have so many fans received so much for so little!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #7: The Human Torch and Sub-Mariner—plus more Golden Age goodies with the one and only Captain America! And, just for good measure, three far-out fantasy favorites!

MARVEL TALES #7: Spidey—Thor—the Human Torch—and the wistful, wonderful Wasp! All in one mag—the biggest bargain since the Oklahoma Land Rush!



POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB

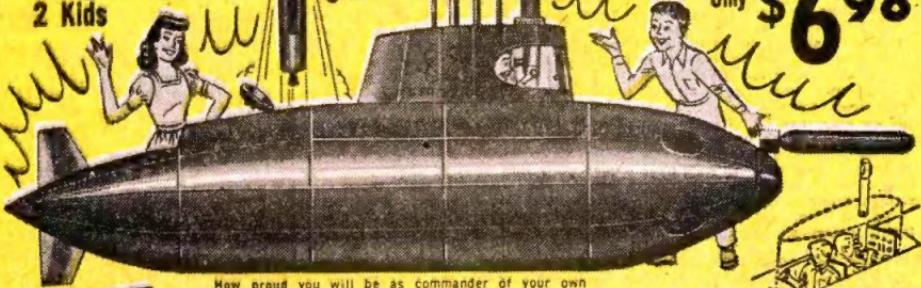
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LYNBOOK, NEW YORK

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a boy
12 or older } Mail This Coupon Today

THE NEXT INSTANT, THE HELLCARRIER ITSELF IS ELECTRIFYINGLY TOOTED-- AS AMIDST AN EAR-SHATTERING CRASH, A MASSIVE, NIGHTMAREISH FORM BURSTS THROUGH THE METALLIC HULL...

I HAVE COME FOR YOU, NICK FURY!

MEN CALL ME THE DREADNOUGHT ... BUT, YOU MAY CALL ME.. DEATH!!

KRAAAK!

AAAH!

WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES...? IT'S SOME KINDA ROBOT... AND IT MUST BE EIGHT FEET TALL!

THE BLAMED THING TORE THROUGH THE SIDES OF THE SHIP LIKE THEY WERE MADE OF SO MUCH TISSUE PAPER!

AND...IT SOUNDS LIKE IT PLANS TO DO THE SAME WITH ME!

THEN, EVEN AS THE MECHANICAL ROBOT REPAIR RATS RUSH TO RE-CONSTRUCT THE TORN HULL... AND THE DE-PRESSURIZING CABIN IS AUTOMATICALLY SEALED OFF FROM THE REST OF THE SHIP... NICK FURY TAKES ACTION...

OXYGEN'S.. GITTIN' THIN!
BUT, A COUPLE'A THESE
BUTTONS OUGHTTA KEEP
ME GOIN' FOR A WHILE...

AT LEAST, TILL I
FIND OUT WHAT IN
SAM HILL'S GOIN'
ON AROUND HERE!

I SHALL ALLOW YOU TO
CONSUME THE TABLETS,
MORTAL... FOR, IT IS
HYDRA'S WISH THAT
YOU DIE BY MY HAND!

AND, NO ONE... OR
NO THING... SHALL
PREVENT YOUR
COMPLETE AND
UTTER
DESTRUCTION!



YOU HAVE ESCAPED
ONE FATE... ONLY
TO MEET
ANOTHER!

FOR NOTHING
CAN STOP
THE DARTS
OF DOOM!

ZIK
ZIK
ZIK

LUCKY I SAW
I'M RAISE HIS
ARMS, AN'
GUESSED WHAT
HE WUZ UP TO!

OTHERWISE, I
WOULD'A NEVER
HAD TIME TO
SWITCH ON THIS
WATCH.

KLIK!

AN SEE IF IT
REALLY WORKS AS
A MAGNETIC
REPULSOR?

I HHEW-E
JUST IN
TIME,
TOO!

ANOTHER SECOND,
AN' IT WOULD'A
BEEN NICK FURY,
THE WALKIN'
PIN-CUSHION!



THEN, MOVING WITH A SPEED BORN OF YEARS OF COMMANDO TRAINING, NICK FURY LEAPS AT HIS METALLIC FOE, AND...

EVEN THROUGH MY SILICA-AND-STEEL JACKET, I'M GITTIN' ENOUGH VOLTAGE TO KNOCK OVER A HORSE!

IF ONLY... I CAN HOLD ON... TILL THE ELECTRONIC ABSORBER DOES ITS JOB!

IT'S GOTTA BE WORKIN'!
I DRAINED OFF ENUFF STRENGTH SO'S I COULD EVEN KNOCK THE ROBOT OFF ITS FEET!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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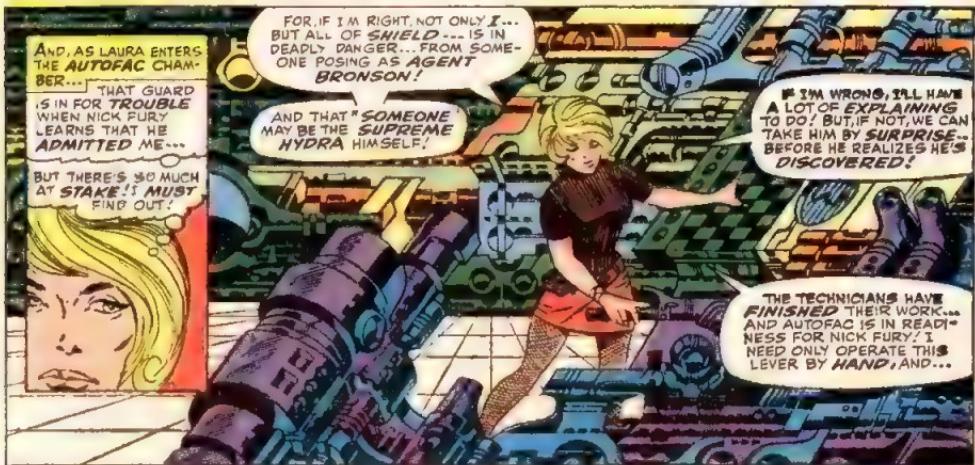
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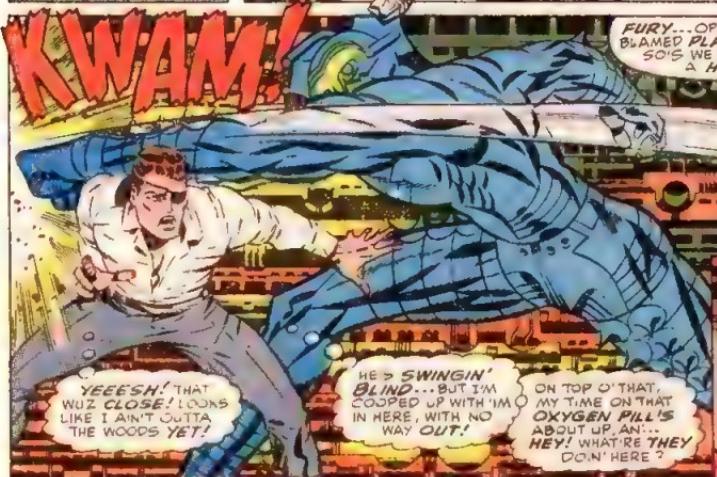
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MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SHIP, A MONUMENTAL CLASH HURTS TOWARDS A CATASTROPHIC CLIMAX...



BUT, IN HIS ANXIETY TO PROTECT HIS FRIENDS FROM DANGER, NICK FURY HAS REVEALED HIS LOCATION ON THE DREADNOUGHT, AND...



THAT ROBOT'S GOT MORE WAYS TO KILL A MAN THAN CARTER'S HAS LITTLE PILLS! THE MOISTURE IN THE AIR'S TURNIN' TO ICE!





A SHORT TIME LATER, IGNORING THE WELL-MEANING ADVICE OF THE SHIP'S MEDICOS, THE SHIELD RAMROD LEADS HIS SMALL, TRUSTED COTERIE TOWARDS... THE AUTOFAC CHAMBER!

COLONEL FURY, SIR... WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP AND ABOUT?

WE HEARD YOU WERE CONFINED TO SICK BAY AFTER THAT BATTLE WITH THE HYDRA ROBOT!

I AIN'T GOT TIME TO GIT MY TEMPERATURE TAKEN, SOLDIER.. NOT WITH SUPREME HYDRA ON THE LOOSE!

ONLY THING IS, I WONDER WHERE LAURA BROWN IS! I WANTED HER IN ON THIS LITTLE CLAMBAKE!

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED, SIR... WHILE YOU WERE FIGHTING THE DREADNOUGHT!

WELL, I'LL CLUE 'ER IN ON THE DETAILS LATER!

RIGHT NOW, WE GOTTA FIND OUT IF THAT MECHANIZED STOOL PIGEON CAN TELL US WHO SUPREME HYDRA IS... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

BUT, AS NICK FURY ACTIVATES THE ENORMOUS ULTRA-COMPUTER, HE IS NOT PREPARED FOR THE ASTONISHING ANSWER IT GIVES...

COLONEL... LOOK!

AUTO-FAC SAYS THE SUPREME HYDRA IS... MISS BROWN!

CAN IT BE POSSIBLE, COLONEL?

I WOULDNA'T THOUGHT SO, BRONSON...

BUT NOW.. I AINT SO SURE!

IF I MAY, SIR... WHAT ABOUT THE ATTEMPTS HYDRA AGENTS MADE TO KILL HER? SURELY...

THEY COULD'A BEEN FADED... SO WE'D TAKE HER ABOARD THE HELI-CARRIER!

BUT, COLONEL.. THE ROBOT CAME FROM OUTSIDE THE SHIP!

THEN.. AT THIS VERY MOMENT.. SHE MAY BE PLANNING SOME NEW ACT OF SABOTAGE THAT MIGHT DESTROY SHIELD!

JUST THEN...

WE CHECKED THE FORCE FIELD MECHANISM, COLONEL... AND YOUR SPOSITION WAS CORRECT!

THE SCREEN WAS TURNED OFF TO ALLOW THE ROBOT'S ENTRY... TURNED OFF BY SOMEONE ON THE SHIP ITSELF!

THAT CLINCHES IT! IT MUST'A BEEN THE GIRL... SHE'S BEEN STRINGIN' US ALONG LIKE SO MANY SAPS!

A PERSON IS INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY, SIR! BESIDES, YOU SAID SHE ONCE SAVED YOUR LIFE!*

SHE MUST HAVE BETRAYED HER OWN FATHER.. SO THAT SHE COULD INHERIT THE MANTLE OF SUPREME HYDRA!

ALSO, SIR... THE SENTRY SAYS MISS BROWN GAINED ENTRANCE TO THIS SECTION EARLIER... AND HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE!

SHE MUST'A WANTED TO MONKEY WITH AUTOFAC...

* AND SO SHE DID... IN STRANGE TALES # 139 -- STRAIGHT FORWARD STAN...

BUT, WE MUST'A SHOWED UP AT THE WRONG TIME... AN' SHE HADDA TAKE IT ON THE LAM!

WE'LL FIND 'ER... IF WE HAFTA TEAR THIS WHOLE BLASTED SHIP APART!

WE'LL TRY, COLONEL! BUT, THERE MAY NOT BE MUCH TIME--!

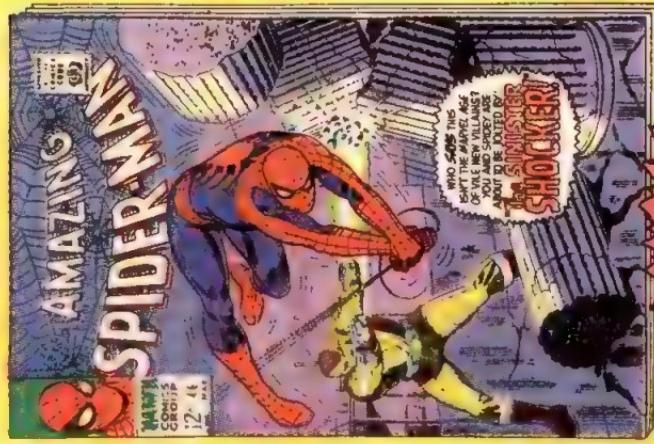
IN FACT, I KNOW THERE ISN'T, YOU FOOL! THE DREADNOUGHT WAS A DECOY.. INTENDED TO KILL YOU AND MAKE EASIER MY ACCESS TO AUTOFAC!

SINCE YOU SURVIVED, HOWEVER, MY VENGEANCE WILL NOW BE THAT MUCH SWEETER!

FOR, SOON I SHALL DESTROY BOTH YOU AND LAURA BROWN.. PERSONALLY!

NEXT: THE PLAN!

MORE MARVEL MASTERPIECES...



NOW
ON SALE!





NORMAN ROCKWELL—America's most beloved artist. He is a founder and member of the Guiding Faculty of the Famous Artists Schools.

into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, "Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

He suggested a new kind of art school—a home study art school—that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live.

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they created a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, they developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

The famous artists with the School are not surprised at the success of their students. The opportunities open to successful artists today are enormous. The School continually gets calls from all over the country asking for practical well-trained students—not geniuses—who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs. And practical, thorough training is what the School offers.

Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test—or offer other evidence of art talent—may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

"We're looking for people who like to draw"

says **NORMAN ROCKWELL**

Today hundreds of men and women who never thought they could be artists are working at easels and drawing boards, making pictures and getting well paid for it. They all can thank a group of famous artists who have devoted much of their time and talent to helping others find success in art.

Some of the People the Famous Artists Have Helped

Carl Koch was an 18 year old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—last year he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Stan Bowen, father of three children, was trapped in a dull, low-paying job. By studying with FAS he

became a sought-after illustrator, has opened his own studio.

With Famous Artists training Rosemary Roberts was hired by a top department store as an artist—with a big chance to advance.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art workshop, does portraits.

A Plan to Help Others

It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned

FOUNDING FACULTY OF FAMOUS ARTISTS SCHOOLS

NORMAN ROCKWELL	FRED LUDEKENS
JON WHITCOMB	BEN STAHL
AL PARKER	ROBERT FAWCETT
STEVEN DOHANOS	AUSTIN BRIGGS
GEORGE GIUSTI	HAROLD VON SCHMIDT
PETER HELCK	ALBERT DORNE

- *****
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• Studio 5252, Westport, Conn.
• I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and information about your courses.

Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Age _____
Mrs. _____
Miss _____ Circle one and please print

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Dr. STRANGE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!

CLEA MUST DIE!



ATTEND YE THESE WORDS,
O TRUE BELIEVER, FOR
THEY BE THE FABRIC OF
WONDERMENT!

ALONE AND UNAFRAID,
DR. STRANGE HAS
DARED INVADE THE DREADED
DIMENSIONAL REALM
OF THE UNSPEAKABLE
UMAR, IN A DESPERATE
EFFORT TO RESCUE THE
FAIR CLEA FROM THE
EVIL ENCHANTRESS!

BUT, INSTEAD OF THE
LOVELY CAPTIVE, HE FINDS
HIMSELF TRICKED INTO
CONTACT WITH A MURDEROUS
MINDLESS ONE...

A MYSTIC MARVEL
MASTERWORK BY:
STAN LEE & **MARIE SEVERIN**
LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN

AND NOW, AS SURELY AS THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO GLEAMS,
SO SURELY DOES OUR ENCHANTED EPIC THUS TAKE FORM BEFORE
OUR DAZZLED EYES---

WEAK AND DRAINED OF HIS MYSTIC ENERGIES BY THE BATTLE HE HAS JUST CONCLUDED, DR. STRANGE KNOWS HE MUST HAVE TIME... TIME TO REPLENISH HIS WANING POWERS!



FIRST, I SHALL FREE MY ETHEREAL SELF FROM MY PHYSICAL BODY!

AND THEN, BEFORE MY MORTAL FORM CAN FULLY CRUMBLE, I QUICKLY RETURN...

POWERS WHICH ENABLE ME TO MAKE MY MORTAL BODY NAUGHT BUT A SHADOWY SHELL... TO SERVE AS DECOY FOR THE MINDLESS ONE!



ALTHOUGH MY MORTAL FORM IS STILL FULLY VISIBLE, IT IS NOW BEYOND ALL FEELING... BEYOND ALL HARM...

BUT THAT THE MINDLESS ONE CANNOT KNOW!

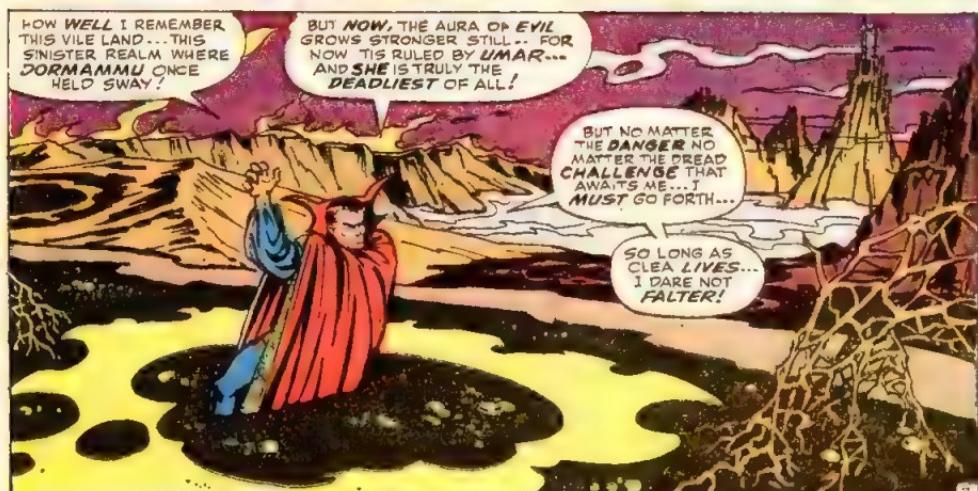
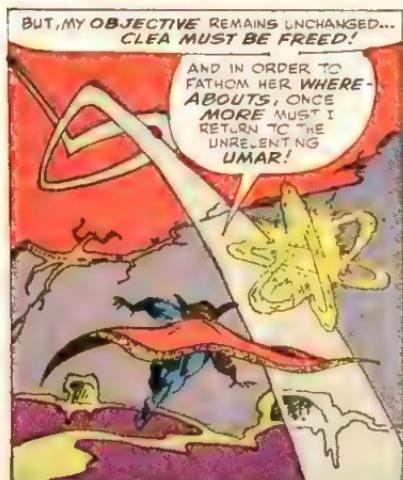
UMAR HAS MADE HER GRAVEST MISTAKE BY ASSUMING I WAS DOOMED AND THUS LEAVING THE SCENE WITHOUT A BACKWARD GLANCE!

A MONUMENTAL MISTAKE WHICH SHE WILL LIVE TO DEARLY REGRET!



THE MINDLESS ONE CONTINUES TO STRIKE AT MY INVULNERABLE BODY... GROWING MORE MYSTERIOUS WITH EACH FUTILE BLOW!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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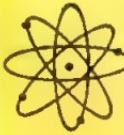
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BUT, CAUTION MUST EVER BE MY WATCHWORD... FOR I AM A LONE STRANGER... IN A LAND OF EVIL!

I SHALL SEND THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOTTO AHEAD... TO REVEAL THE DANGERS THAT AWAIT ME!



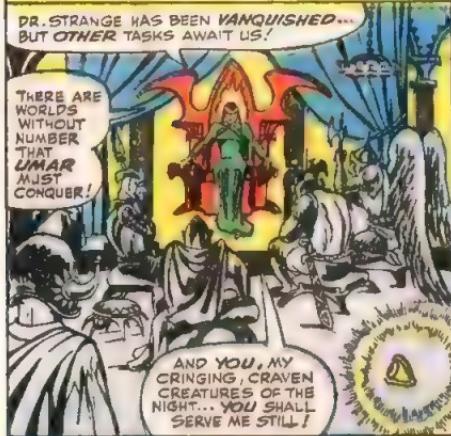
AND SO, THE MYSTICISMA, THE MAGIC, THE MYRIAD MYSTIC MARVELS BEGIN...



SECONDS LATER, WITHIN THE CAVERNOUS CASTLE, THE ENCHANTED EYE BEHOLDS...

DR. STRANGE HAS BEEN VANQUISHED... BUT OTHER TASKS AWAITS US!

THERE ARE WORLDS WITHOUT NUMBER THAT UMAR MUST CONQUER!



AND YOU, MY CRINGING, CRAVEN CREATURES OF THE NIGHT... YOU SHALL SERVE ME STILL!

NEVER WILL I REST UNTIL ALL WHO LIVE ARE IN MY POWER! EACH DIMENSION... IN ITS TURN... MUST BE GROUNDED BENEATH THE HEEL OF UMAR!

AND, ANY WHO FAIL ME, MUST BE PREPARED TO PAY THE TERRIBLE PRICE!

SO SPEAKS UMAR!



AND FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT CHOOSE TO BELIEVE... BEHOLD THE DUNGEON OF THE DOOMED... WHERE ALL WHO OPPOSE ME AWAITS THEIR FINAL FATE!



THIS IT WAS IN THE DAY OF DORMAMMU... SO IT IS IN THE REIGN OF UMAR!

BUT, ONE THERE IS WHO IS NOT STRICKEN WITH NAMELESS, NUMBING FEAR...

NEVERMORE SHALL HELPLESS BEINGS BE HURLED INTO THAT ACCURSED DUNGEON!

BY THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK.. THE WORDS I SPEAK ARE TRUE!



GUIDED BY HIS ALL-SEEING MYSTIC EYE, THE MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC REACHES THE DREADED DUNGEON WITHIN MINUTES! AND THEN...

I HAVE FOUND THE PERILOUS PIT OF WHICH UMAR SPOKE...

BUT, A COATING OF LIQUID FIRE GUARDS IT FROM THOSE WHO WOULD INTRUDE...

AND, FROM THOSE WHO WOULD ESCAPE, AS WELL!

YET A SIMPLE SPELL CAN GIVE MY CLOAK THE POWER TO PROTECT ME!

THIS, SHIELDED BY ITS ENCHANTMENT I PASS EFFORTLESSLY THROUGH BOTH THE FLAME, AND THE BOILING VAPORS...

BUT, ANOTHER DANGER NOW CONFRONTS ME!

SO DEEP IS THE PIT... SO VIOLENT ARE THE CURRENTS OF PUNGENT AIR... THAT THEY CREATE AN IRRESISTIBLE SUCTION... WHICH NO LIVING BEING CAN WITHSTAND!

FASTER AND FASTER I FEEL MYSELF BEING DRAWN TOWARD THE BOTTOM... SWIRLING HELPLESSLY, LIKE A LEAF CAUGHT IN A WHIRLPOOL'S TIDE!

I MUST NOT LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS! I MUST SAVE MYSELF... FROM THE FINAL PLUNGE!

IT IS DONE!

THOUGH MY CLOAK OF LEVITATION HAS NOT THE POWER TO RESIST THE MYSTIC SUCTION...

AND THEN, AT LAST...

THEY TURN FROM ME IN FEAR... BELIEVING ME TO BE AN AGENT OF THE UNSPEAKABLE UMAR!

ALL SAVE THE SILENT FIGURE IN THE SHADOWS. WHO MOVES NOT AT ALL! HE SEEMS SOMEHOW DIFFERENT FROM THE REST!

THE SHINING CIRCLE OF THE SERAPHIM PROTECTS ME IN A RING OF ANTI-FORCE!

BUT TIME ENOUGH LATER FOR SUCH MUSINGS! NOW, THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE!

WITH ONE MYSTIC **WAVE** OF HIS HAND THE MASTER SORCERER CONJURES UP AN IMAGE OF THE VANISHED **CLEA**...

DO NOT FEAR! BEHOLD THIS **FEMALE!**
I MEAN NO HARM!

GAZE WELL AT HER VISAGE!

I MUST FIND HER WHO AMONG YOU HAS SEEN THIS FACE?

SPEAK... I COMMAND YOU!

WE DARE NOT SPEAK! BUT HE WILL TELL YOU! YOU MUST ASK HIM... ONLY HIM!

IT IS THE ONE WHO STANDS ALONE!

THOUGH I KNOW NOT WHO YOU ARE, IF YOU HAVE SEEN THE FAIR **CLEA**, THEN 'TIS YOU I SEEK!

HE BEGINS TO TURN... MY WORDS HAVE BEEN HEARD!

HE DOES NOT SPEAK... HE MAKES NO SOUND!

AND YET I SENSE A MYSTIC AURA OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIM!

BUT, WHO... OR WHAT CAN HE BE?

HE IS KNOWN ONLY AS... **VERITAS**!

VERITAS! THE LEGENDARY EMBODIMENT OF TRUTH INCARNATE!

BUT, HOW COULD UMAR IMPRISON ONE SUCH AS HE?

NONE MAY IMPRISON VERITAS! THE SILENT ONE COMES AND GOES AT WILL!

HE SEEKS TO ENSHROUD ME WITHIN HIS CLOAK! AND YET... I FEEL NO FEAR!

DO AS YOU WILL, SPECTRAL ONE! DR. STRANGE CANNOT BE HARMED BY TRUTH!

THE STRANGER HAS VANISHED BENEATH THE CAPE OF **VERITAS**!

NONE MAY FATHOM THE PURPOSE OF THE SILENT ONE! NOR MAY ANY BEHOLD HIS FACELESS FACE!

THEY RISE... AS THOUGH WEIGHTLESS! VERITAS HAS TAKEN THE STRANGER CAPTIVE!

NAY! NOT SO! GUIDED BY THE SHRODJE, ONE, THE STRANGER LEAVES MOST WILLINGLY!

THE CLOAK DRAWS OPEN! THE INTRUDER STILL LIVES! BUT... WHAT NOW...?

ONLY YOU MAY REVEAL THAT WHICH I MUST KNOW! ONLY YOU CAN GUIDE ME TO THE HIDDEN **CLEA**!

THOUGH NO SOUND ESCAPES HIM, HIS MEANING IS AS CLEAR AS THOUGHTS ARE BRANDED DEEP WITHIN MY BRAIN!

HE POINTS THE WAY BACK... BACK TO THE CASTLE OF UMAR!

THUS, ONLY BY RETURNING THERE, CAN I FIND THE ONE WHO MUST BE SAVED!



AND, WITHIN THE CRAVEN CASTLE,



STRIKE... IN THE NAME OF UMAR... IN THE NAME OF EVIL ETERNAL!



ONLY THE MOST LETHAL SPELL... DELIVERED WITH LIGHTNING SPEED... CAN SAVE ME!

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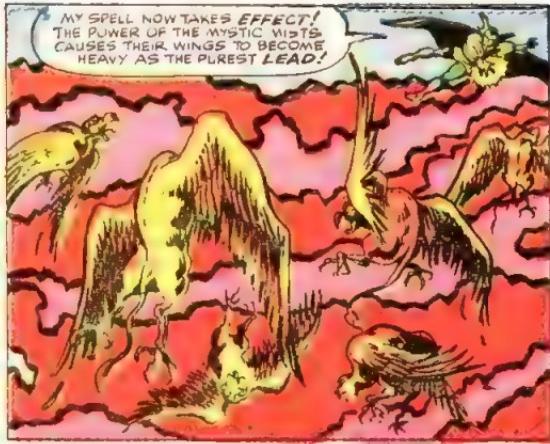
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NO MERE HURLING
ROCKS CAN PIERCE
THE DEFENSES OF THE
MASTER OF THE
MYSTIC ARTS!



SECONDS LATER, THE GREATEST MORTAL SORCERER OF ALL ENTERS THE FEARSOME, SHADOWY CORRIDOR WHICH LEADS TO... THE UNSPEAKABLE FEMALE WHO HAS SWORN TO DESTROY HIM...!

HEAR ME, UMAR! I HAVE DEFEATED YOUR EVERY THREAT... EVADED YOUR EVERY TRAP...

AND NOW I RETURN FOR THE FINAL TASK...

...TO RID THE UNIVERSE OF THE DEMONIAC EVIL YOU WOULD UNLEASH UPON WORLDS WITHOUT END!

STAND YOU FORTH, SISTER OF DORMAMMU!

YOUR TIME OF TRIAL HAS COME!

UNUTTERABLE FOOL! YOU HAVE NO PEER UPON THE EARTH... BUT I... THE UNMATCHABLE UMAR... AM MISTRESS OF POWER IN ALL THESE COUNTLESS WORLDS!



WITH BUT ONE SWEEP OF MY HAND, I UNLEASH A COLUMN OF PHANTASMAGORIC FORCE WHICH SHALL CRUSH YOU TILL YOU BREATHE NO MORE!



STRUGGLE THOUGH YOU MAY... THERE IS NO SPELL... NO MYSTIC INCANTATION... WHICH CAN FIND ME IN TIME!

AND, ONLY BY STANDING WITHIN THE PRESENCE OF UMAR, CAN MY FORCE FIELD BE OVERCOME!

SORCERESS... YOU HAVE... MADE YOUR... FINAL... FATAL... ERROR...!



...WHILE YOU ATTACKED ME... THERE IS ANOTHER WHO HAS ENTERED YOUR CHAMBERS!

YOU LIE! YOU SEEK TO DISTRACT ME! BUT NONE CAN DEceive THE UNCONQUERABLE UMAR!

ONLY SCANT SECONDS REMAIN... BEFORE YOU ARE REDUCED TO A LIFELESS CADAVER!



BUT THEN, THE MISTRESS OF MAGIC MOST EVIL,
SENSES THE SILENT SHAPE BEHIND HER... AND,
THROWING CAUTION TO THE WIND... SHE SPINS
AROUND, ONLY TO SEE ...



MY PLAN SUCCEEDED!

SO SHOCKED WAS UMAR... BY THE SUPERN
SIGHT OF VERITAS... THAT SHE LOST CONTROL
OF HER PILLAR OF
FORCE!



YOU! THOUGH YOU HAVE SAVED YOURSELF ONCE MORE, YOU HAVE GAINED NAUGHT BUT TIME!



LET THE IMAGE OF CLEA APPEAR --- THAT I
MAY LEARN AT LAST WHERE SHE IS TO BE
FOUND!

NEVER! YOU
SHALL NEVER
HAVE HER!

BACK,
CREATURE
OF EVIL,
YOUR SPELLS
SHALL NOT
STOP ME NOW!



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STRANGE MAI

Dear Stan,

Allow me to be the first to congratulate you on your most recent Marvel masterpiece, STRANGE TALES #150. With the introduction of Umas, the unrelenting sister of Dormammu, you have opened up all sorts of outstanding original avenues of plot development. Before long we could have the Son of Dormammu, the great-great-uncle of Dormammu, the third cousin of Dormammu, and the mother-in-law of Dormammu. And who knows, if this keeps up, we may even see the story which would promise to be the classic of the century—the Hound of the Dormannmus! (Or, who says this isn't the Marvel age of sarcastic fan letters?!)

Bruce Long, 8362 DeCosta Ave.
Whittier, Calif. 90606

Jeepers, Brucie boy—if you hadn't added that last sentence we'd never have known you were being sarcastic! We were too busy jotting down all our suggestions and thinking how great they were! In fact, Marie's already done a costume design for Dormammu's mother-in-law! But, tell us one thing, faithful one—how'd you find out about the Hound of the Dormannus? We were keeping him under wraps to surprise Marveldom with later on! Now you've spoiled everything! But, we're still one jump ahead of you—you haven't mentioned anything about Dormammu's Uncle Sidney, on his father's side! Just wait'll you meet him! (Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em"?!)

Dear Stan,

Just a letter to reassure you that the U. S. Navy backs you all the way with your successful comic publications. My current home is on the Heavy Cruiser USS *Newport News* and when your magazines come out each month, I buy them and eventually they find their way around the Division. I've been reading STRANGE TALES for a year now, and am sorry I missed the first parts of Nick Fury, Agent of Shield. That's why we're sending in for a subscription. All your books are fantabulous, but Shield is super-colossal! The Diamond Key backs you all the way! Keep up the good work—you're in a class of your own!

Kenneth Sneyd, 9155735, Echo Division
USS Newport News, a/o FPO, New York, N.Y. 09501

One thing's for sure, Ken—we're flattered as all get-out! Of course, Brand Echh probably thinks we're in a class of our own, too—but we sort'a suspect they don't quite mean the same thing as you! Anyway, there's one thing we'd really appreciate—when you get a minute, how about cluing us in to the meaning of "Echo Division" in your address? We've been wondering about it since receiving your letter. And, while we're waiting, here's a salute to the Diamond Key—and to the great gobs who help protect our freedom throughout the seven seas! You guys are the best!

Dear Stan,

You've outdone yourselves! Of all the mighty Marvel triumphs, Shield is the biggest. Bringing Hydra back was a stroke of genius, but one thing bothers me. Shield must be able to locate almost anybody, right? So why don't they find the original Imperial Hydra's daughter? She'd make a dandy Agent of Shield, and she must know a lot about the inner workings of Hydra. By the way, why the change from "Imperial" Hydra to "Supreme" Hydra? I keep thinking there must be some deep, profound reason, but so far I haven't found it. Keep Jasper Sitwell just as he is. I think he's the greatest thing since the MMMS, but don't let him replace Fury. One last thing—since Dr. Strange seems to have no trouble conjuring up money in issue #151—how

come he couldn't pay his pharmacy bill in issue #147? Anyway, may magnificent Marvel always be the greatest!

Karen Bower, 15th & Grant
Port Townsend, Wash. 98368

How can we be when you put us under the grill that way, Karen? Anyway, we might as well take a deep breath and try to wrestle with your questions, in our usual supremely inept manner! As you know by now, Shield did find Hydie's daughter—although keeping her found is liable to be another problem! And, the deep, profound reason which you sought to explain our changing "Imperial" Hydra to "Supreme" Hydra (and back again, ad nauseum) is simply that we can never remember which word we started with! So, we'll let him use both titles—just like a king is sometimes called "Your Highness", and sometimes "Your Majesty". Unfortunately, we can't answer your question about Dr. Strange conjuring up that money because we've run out of room—as well as not knowing the answer! And now, we'll gather up our magic amulets and steal away in the night before anyone thinks of another question! Let's see now—where'd we put our Cloak of Levitation? Oh, that's right—we sent it out to be dry-cleaned!

Dear Stan,

STRANGE TALES #151 was too much! Now you've made STRANGE TALES one of my favorite mags. Please leave Jim Steranko on Shield. He can really draw action! I don't know why, but you always change the Shield artists. Everyone wants Kirby, but he already has three strips to do. You've had countless pencilers and inkers just this year! It was just as fouled up last year. If you ask me, Steranko is better than all of them. The stories on Shield have improved greatly over the earlier part of this year. This story had a great cliff-hanger, and I hope you handle it right next issue. Dr. Strange is very good, too. I'm going to close my letter with a bang, and reveal the greatest secret of all time—Irving Forbush is San Lee's real name!

Bill Hornah, 2501 Washington St.
Wilmington, Dela. 19802

Uh uh, Bill—Irving Forbush isn't even Irving Forbush's real name! Or maybe it is—we just tossed that in to confuse you. Actually, Stan is really Stan—Jack is really Jack—Jim is really Jim—and Marie is really a pussycat! We're not sure that the world is quite ready to learn the senses-staggering secret of Honest Irv yet—but when that joyous day arrives—when mankind truly comes of age—then, by the Hoary Hosts of Hoggoth . . . we'll probably have forgotten all about it!—There! We're glad we had the opportunity to tell you why we've had so many artists drawing SHIELD in the past! If there's anything else puzzling you—welcome to the club!

NEXT ISH: Brace yourself for the biggest block-bustin' issue yet, as the sinister Supreme Hydra turns some of Shield's most trusted agents against Nick Fury himself—while the fantastic heli-carrier goes out of control! And, if that's not enough to grab you, wait'll you see how our ol' Master of the Mystic Arts goes into action because of poor Cleo's fate! By the way, don't be too surprised at what will happen to Cleo, either! We can't tell you any more without giving the whole mishmash away, but, in the hallowed, time-honored words of the venerable Ancient One—"Latch onto STRANGE TALES #155, cats—it'll hitch where ya live!" (Well, did you think he goes around reciting chants all day?) See you next ish, O Keeper of the Flame!

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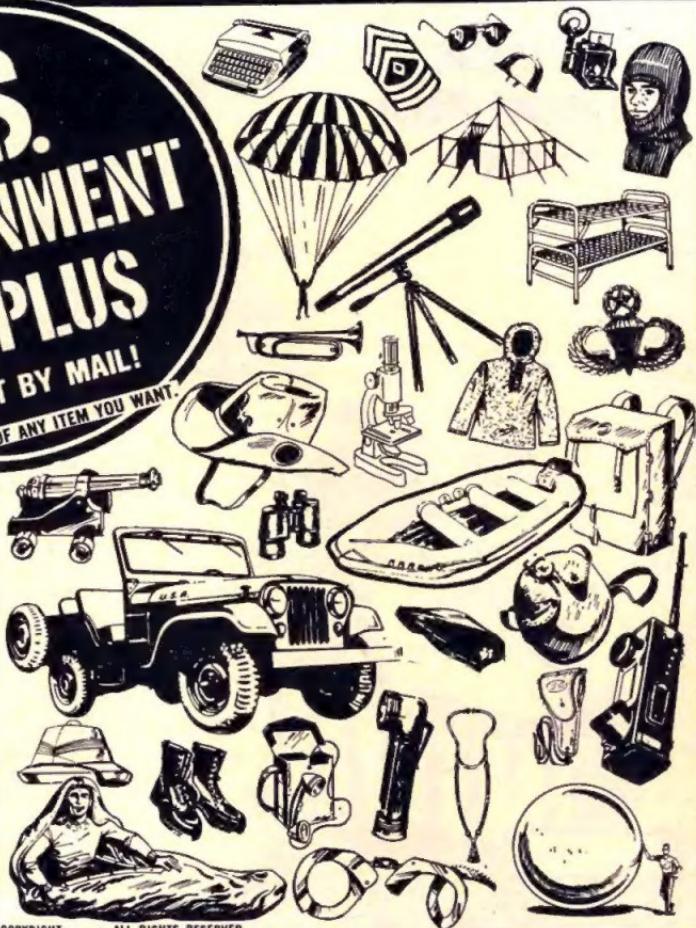
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